

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice
June 11, 2004

The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice met Friday, June 11, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center, Geneva, Nebraska. Notice of this meeting was published May 29, 2004 in the Lincoln Journal Star.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Tom McBride, Chairperson of the NCJJ.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Linda Benjamin, Myles Davis (arrived at 10:15), Tom Dorwart, Kylee Hoffmaster, Allen Jensen, Ron Johns, Audra Liebig, Thomas McBride, T.J. McDowell (arrived at 10:15), Elaine Menzel, Mark Montgomery, Tim O'Dea, Elaine Pflipsen, Gerard Piccolo, and Jerry Watson. **Members excused:** Edward Birkel, James Blue, Charles Brewster, John Clark, Chris Connolly, Allen Curtis, Lawrence Gendler, Jamie Janssen, Terry Medina, Justin Mickels, Nancy Montanez, Kathy Moore, Nancy Oats, and Alfredo Ramirez. **Members absent:** None. **Staff present:** Eli McBride, Monica Miles-Steffens, Nancy Steeves, and Stephanie Vensky.

McBride introduced Audra Liebig from North Platte and Kylee Hoffmaster from Lexington as the Coalition's new youth members.

III. Approval of March 26, 2004 Minutes

Motion

A motion was made by Jensen and seconded by Menzel to approve the March 26, 2004 meeting minutes. (Motion carried unanimously.)

IV. Crime Commission Report

a. Diversion project update

Miles-Steffens reported on LB43 Diversion project, which requires the Crime Commission to collect data from Diversion programs across the state. Hank Robinson and Anne Hobbs put together a database and case management system available to County Attorney's and Diversion programs at no cost to them. Hank and staff from the Juvenile Justice institute will install the system and provide training at the county's request. The data collected is sent to the Crime Commission's database. The new IT person at the Crime Commission has been designated to work on this project. There has been positive response to the project and approximately 16-17 counties have responded to the invitation to install the case management system.

Miles-Steffens said she spoke to Hank and some of the diversion coordinators and thought this would be good timing to have a Diversion Conference for County Attorney's and Diversion programs across the state. She said the conference would most likely be held in October and invited members of the group to volunteer if they were interested in assisting in planning the conference.

b. YLSI training update

Miles-Steffens explained the Youth Level of Service Inventory is the common risk/ needs assessment tool that Probation and HHSS have been working toward implementing between the 2 agencies. Training was held in Kearney June 7th & 8th for Probation and HHSS workers and in Lincoln June 10th & 11th, which was only attended by Probation because HHSS had some concerns with overtime and implementation. Miles-Steffens said the feedback on the training and trainers was excellent.

c. Juvenile Information Integration project update

Miles-Steffens stated \$50,000 is set aside from JAIBG interest money to hire a consultant to help do a strategic plan to develop a Juvenile/CJIS system. She said 10 companies submitted proposals in response to the RFP from all over the country and the intent to award a proposal has been made to M.T.G., from Seattle, who also did the strategic plan for CJIS.

d. Budget cuts to Juvenile Services funds

Miles-Steffens reported at the end of the legislative session the Juvenile Services grant funds took a 1% reduction. The recommended awards approved at the March meeting had to be reduced by 1%, which is about \$200 for each program. She said next year's would also be reduced by 1%.

Miles-Steffens received an email from Alfredo who is at the Child Welfare League conference and reported the sessions were very informative and had the opportunity to meet with Robert Flores who is the administrator of OJJDP.

V. Sub-Committee Reports

a. Executive

McBride reported the Executive Committee held a conference call to discuss youth members, people attending various conferences, funding cuts and his trip to D.C. The

committee discussed setting up meetings with delegates to educate them on juvenile justice funding issues.

b. DMC

Miles-Steffens stated the DMC Committee held a conference call and Anne is moving forward on collecting data from different counties. Discussion was held on having a planning retreat, which is scheduled for June 24th at Quarry Oaks Golf Course and will consist of accomplishments of the DMC committee, getting to know the new members and putting together an action plan for each of the communities we are collecting data from.

Miles-Steffens reported Alfredo and herself attended a one-day DMC conference in Sioux City, Iowa. Iowa was one of the original pilot sites for DMC and have one of the top researchers in the nation. Sioux City has their own DMC sub-committee and they hold their own conference every year as well as the State of Iowa holds a DMC conference, which the Nebraska DMC sub-committee will attend December 2nd & 3rd.

c. Grant Review

Miles-Steffens said two more members are still needed to serve on the Grant Review Committee. They held a conference call to review the JAIBG grants and she thanked everyone for their time and comments. Grant Management Training will be held June 29th & 30th for all new subgrantee's that were awarded in May. Hank will do a presentation on evaluation and he will do some hands on technical assistance on how they can build evaluation into their grant program.

Linda Benjamin volunteered to serve on the grant review committee.

d. Youth Committee

McDowell said the Youth Committee still needs 3 more members to have a complete committee. He said they have 3 prospects and it is the committee's goal to have them on board by the September meeting. Miles-Steffens said they would like to have a retreat for the youth members to provide training on the Coalition and determine what they are interested in doing.

McBride asked Allen Jensen to report on the Federal Advisory Committee's Annual Report Committee. Jensen said they have had several conference calls to put together the Annual Report, which has 2 parts. The first part is recommendations to the President and Congress and the second part is recommendations to OJJDP. He said the recommendations cover many issues such as funding, mental health, and substance abuse. Jensen said the committee has 10 members and they will meet in Denver in July to finalize the report which should be ready for distribution by late fall.

McBride introduced Shanna Belschner the Executive Director of the Children & Family Coalition of Nebraska called CAFCON.

VI. Report on NJJA Conference: Elaine Pflepsen

Pflepsen reported on the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association conference held in Grand Island May 6 & 7, with a record attendance of 250 people. She said the overall conference was very positive and uplifting. She gave a brief overview of the workshops she attended and said they were very informative. She said that many were emotional when listening to some of the youth speak about their experiences and how the programs have saved their lives.

VII. Approval of 2003 Juvenile Accountability Block Grants

Miles-Steffens gave a brief overview of the JABG grant funds. She explained that the program is set up so approximately 30 cities or counties across the state get a pre-determined amount of money, which they apply for through the Crime Commission. The remainder of the money that comes to the Crime Commission is given for a state plan and in the past has been given to HHSS to be used for trackers, mediation, school intervention workers, electronic monitoring and drug and alcohol testing. When counties don't apply for their pre-determined award, the money goes back into the state plan.

Judge Dorwart questioned why some of the counties were recommended for award when there were so many things wrong with their grant. Miles-Steffens explained that this was entitlement money and that the Crime Commission works with those counties to fix what is wrong with the grant before funds are released to them.

Motion

A motion was made by O'Dea and seconded by Johns to approve the 2003 Juvenile Accountability Block grants. Voting in favor of the motion: Benjamin, Davis, Dorwart, Hoffmaster, Jensen (abstain 604), Johns, Liebig, McDowell, Menzel, Montgomery, O'Dea (abstain 604), Pflepsen, Piccolo (abstain 600), and Watson (abstain 600). (Motion carried).

Approve:

03-JA-600	Hall County (Juv. Accountability Intake Officer)	\$33,353
03-JA-601	Scotts Bluff Co. Board of Commissioners (Probation Tracker)	\$19,712
03-JA-602	City of Omaha (Juv. Accountability Block Grant Phase VI)	\$450,936
03-JA-603	Madison County Attorney (Juvenile Acct. Officer)	\$18,084
03-JA-604	Nebraska Health & Human Services (State of NE Juvenile Accountability Plan)	\$517,713
03-JA-605	Beatrice Police Department	\$6,279

	<i>(Juv. Diversion/Early Intervention Program)</i>	
03-JA-606	Buffalo County	\$21,751
	<i>(Buffalo County Truancy Program)</i>	

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03-JA-607	Sarpy County	\$43,704
	<i>(Juvenile Drug Treatment Court)</i>	
03-JA-608	Dakota County Commissioners	\$5,373
	<i>(Juvenile Accountability)</i>	
03-JA-609	Lancaster County	\$188,887
	<i>(Alternatives with Accountability)</i>	

VIII. Compliance Report: Eli McBride

McBride reported that Nebraska was in full compliance with all requirement of the OJJDP Act. He addressed some questions that were asked at the last meeting regarding whether or not you could detain a juvenile who is a status offender and in violation of a court order. He explained that a status offender could be detained if they were in violation of a court order or probation. A letter will be sent to law enforcement, probation, courts, jail staff, etc. explaining our compliance and the new OJJDP law.

Judge Dorwart thanked McBride for his timely response to his question on juvenile confinement.

IX. Public Comment

Miles-Steffens asked Doug Koebernick of Senator Nancy Thompson's office what the status was of LB640 money. He said it is still in the budget.

Belschner said she works for the Children and Family Coalition and private non-profit agencies can be members of this coalition. She said they have many different agencies that provide a variety of services such as out of home care, clinical mental health care for children and adults & early childhood care. She said she is still learning about juvenile services and looked forward to learn more about the issues.

McBride commented Shanna came to this position from Washington D.C. and has done a tremendous job in representing children's services to the legislature and entities across the state.

Miles-Steffens asked if the agency had a strategic plan in terms of lobbying priorities. Belschner said they do have a strategic plan and she does work on legislation during the legislative session for child welfare, child/adult mental health issues. Last session they supported the behavioral health reform effort and worked a lot with Senator Jensen and Senator Thompson's office.

X. Other new business/future agenda items: Next Meeting, September 17

The next meeting will be September 17 and will be hosted by Cedars Youth Services in Lincoln.

Pflepsen reported on the Cuming County grant and the numerous resumes received for the Juvenile Diversion Coordinator. She said many of the people applying are highly qualified for the position and would like to have that person on board by July 1.

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Motion

A motion was made by Johns and seconded by Menzel to approve \$100 for travel to Sioux City, Iowa to attend DMC conference for Miles-Steffens and Ramirez.

Voting in favor of the motion: Benjamin, Davis, Dorwart, Hoffmaster, Jensen, Johns, Liebig, McDowell, Menzel, Montgomery, O'Dea, Pflepsen, Piccolo, and Watson. (Motion carried).

XI. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:35.

The Facility provided lunch to the group. After lunch residents conducted tours of the facility. The group resumed to meet with the Director, Deputy Director, and clinical staff for a question/answer session and departed the Facility at 2:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Vensky
Staff Support